Pilferage of coal

3047. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a large scale pilferage of coal in the public sector coal companies due to the mafia operations and other illegal activities;

(b) if so, the estimated loss incurred by these companies during the last three years, company-wise and mine-wise;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Theft/pilferage of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely and as such, it is not possible to exactly specify the quantity of coal that might have been stolen. However, as per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments, the approximate value of coal recovered during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of Company	2005-06 Value	2004-05 Value	2003-04 Value
ECL	110.35	88.39	95.46
BCCL	169.506	38.32*	54.86*
CCL	6.435	22.98	12.06
NCL	0	0	0.07
WCL	5.868	0.21	1.66
SECL	2.716	7.55	1.54
MCL	1.211	1.23	0.15
NEC	0.165	1.7	0
CIL	296.251	160.38	165.8

* These figures pertain of the recovery by BCCL security only. Apart from this, coal of approximate value of Rs. 439.50 lakh and Rs. 340.63 lakh was recovered by CISF in BCCL during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(c) and (d) In case of theft/pilferage of coal, FIR is lodged with the police station and further action is initiated/taken by the local law and order authorities.

Fixing of coal royalty

†3048. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2417 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 2006 and state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken with regard to suggestions submitted by Chhattisgarh and other States in respect of fixing of royalty on the basis of market price;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in taking the decision; and

(c) in what manner the losses being suffered by the States due to this would be compensated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir, as the matter involve wide ranging inter-Governmental and inter-Ministerial consultations.

(c) Section 9 (3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act empowers the Central Government to enhance or reduce royalty rates in respect of any mineral as may be specified in the Notification. The proviso to Section 9 (3) of the Act prevents the Central Government from enhancing the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The royalty rates are revised after taking into consideration the interests of all stakeholders and also the overall economic scenario of the country. As such, the question of losses does not arise.

Transportation of coal by ex-servicemen companies

3049. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal in some subsidiaries of Coal India Limited is being transported through the companies owned by the ex-servicemen;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.